

OREM CITY COUNCIL/ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING  
56 North State, Orem, Utah  
March 12, 2014

*This meeting was for discussion purposes only. No official action was taken.*

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| CONDUCTING                    | Mayor Richard Brunst   |
| OREM ELECTED OFFICIALS        | Mayor Richard Brunst; Councilmembers Margaret Black, Tom Macdonald, and Mark Seastrand |
| OREM STAFF                    | Jamie Davidson, City Manager; Dawnie Larsen, Deputy City Recorder                      |
| ALPINE BOARD OF EDUCATION     | Paula Hill, Jodee Sundberg, and Debbie Taylor  |
| ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMIN. | Vern Henshaw, Superintendent; Rob Smith, Assistant Superintendent                      |
| EXCUSED                       | Councilmembers Brent Sumner and David Spencer  |
| ABSENT                        | Councilmember Hans Andersen  |
| INVOCATION                    | Tom Macdonald  |

Mayor Brunst invited everyone to introduce themselves.

**Items of Common Interest**

New Assessment System

Mr. Henshaw indicated that the district was having meetings where local schools informed parents of a new assessment test that would be used. The new system was adaptive, where students would take a test. Missed questions would then be given that were easier, adapting to the student's ability. If the student answered all the questions correctly, the next questions would be harder. The point of an adaptive test was to establish a baseline for individual students, helping them to progress over time. The schedule of information meetings was posted on the district's website.

Construction

Mr. Smith reviewed construction work around the district:

- New gym at Orem Junior High – would be one larger gym that could be divided into two rather than two smaller gyms. It would also have some classrooms in it which would lead up to an eventual rebuilding of the school.
- Addition to Pleasant Grove High School
- Reviewed the reasoning behind the phased reconstruction of Lehi High School

- Roofing project at Sharon Elementary, including some seismic work
- Working through some boundary issues with some neighbors by Scera Park Elementary
- Permanent entrance to the playground at Scera Park Elementary
- Detention ponds on school properties—Lakeridge, Cascade, Bonneville
- The Orchard Elementary Community Council had concerns about the current drop off. They are looking at various options, including a second location.
- Cherry Hill Elementary open house was scheduled for April 22, 2014, and the Council was invited to attend.

### Legislative Session

Mr. Smith said they have been working on House Bill 109. The bill would provide prioritization for the use of excess, one-time revenues for low-assessed districts and high-growth districts. The Alpine School District qualified as both. He noted the bill was currently being held in the Rules Committee.

In response to queries from Mrs. Black and Mr. Davidson, Mr. Smith explained how the current funding process for schools worked. If passed, the bill could provide the district with an additional \$6 million.

Mayor Brunst said he recognized that the recently approved apartment complexes had not yet and might never be built. He wondered how they could impact the schools.

Mr. Henshaw said that would depend upon the kind of apartments. Small units were less likely to have young families that would stay long enough for school-aged children. If the units had more bedrooms, families were more likely to live in them longer which could have an impact.

Mr. Davidson noted that when the University Place development was proposed, he had a discussion with Mr. Smith, who indicated the Alpine School District could accommodate the expected growth.

### Charter Schools

Mr. Macdonald asked (1) how charter schools impacted the school district; and (2) who owned the buildings. Mr. Smith indicated that could depend. It was usually a management company. The school buildings were usually constructed by a contractor and then leased to the charter schools.

Mr. Smith reviewed how charter schools work. He said one area of concern was when a charter school was placed in an area where the enrollment was flat or declining for a nearby traditional school. It created a more rapid decline in the student population of the regular school. This resulted in empty space in an existing building. This results in the tax payers essentially paying for seats in both places. A bill was being considered in the legislature that would require giving priority to locating charter schools in areas of growth. Mr. Smith then reviewed the funding of charter schools.

Mrs. Black shared a discussion she had had with a teacher about a situation where a large influx of high school-aged students who had previously attended a charter school had flooded the regular high school. Mr. Smith said the Alpine School District tried to track that kind of thing.

Mr. Henshaw said it was financially more difficult to administer a program in the junior high and high school levels. He heard recently that one charter school would be dropping seventh and eighth grades, and he passed that information on Mr. Smith to include in projections.

Mr. Seastrand observed that traffic is a big problem with charter schools because it was not a neighborhood school. Parents had to drive the children there. Referring to the future growth in Vineyard, Mr. Seastrand asked how the Alpine School District anticipated accommodating those new students without building new schools.

Mr. Henshaw said if the area developed as currently planned, there would need to be a new elementary school there. The size of the school and its location would be decided after considering how to shift other Orem student populations. Shifting students sounded good on paper, until it was time to talk to the parents of the students who would have to be moved.

#### Technology in Schools

Mayor Brunst said he had seen how technology could help student scores, sometimes as high as 20-30 percent.

Mr. Henshaw said their first priority was to get infrastructure in place. In order to utilize the technology, it was also necessary to train staff how to use it to improve learning in a different way. He said he was not sure using technology the same way paper had always been used was the best way. Their goal was to designate technology funding that individual schools or teachers could apply for. They would have to explain how the technology would be used to impact learning. Their successes could be shared. Mr. Henshaw noted that most children already had access to higher levels of technology than the school district could provide.

#### 100 Year Celebration

Mrs. Sundberg noted that in 2015 the Alpine School District would be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday as a district. They had a lot of fun things planned.

#### Latinos in Action Conference

Mrs. Black said she had attended the conference the day before. The program that began in the Alpine School District has grown. She was very impressed.

#### Orem Issues

Mr. Davidson reviewed the following:

- 800 East rebuild - the project would begin in June and run all summer long. The City would do everything possible not to negatively impact the schools.
- Fitness Center remodel
- Private cosponsored groups – as the staff has had discussions with the groups that use the City's facilities, people had said if they could not get what they wanted from Orem, and they would go to the Alpine School District for a better deal. Some groups would represent themselves as Orem organizations but a review of their rosters show that more than half the participants came from other cities. The City's goal was to take care of the needs of Orem residents. New fee schedules being proposed would lean in behalf of groups whose members were largely from Orem. Other groups would have to pay more

for use of Orem facilities. The City would be using a model similar to one the school district already used.

- Assault on a Cherry Hill student – the Orem police were actively working on the case. They had been discussing ways to have a stronger public safety presence in the schools.

Set Date and Time for Next

The next meeting was scheduled for May 14, 2014, at noon in Orem.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

---

Donna R. Weaver, City Recorder

Approved: March 25, 2014